

now pending in the present application and, for the reasons set forth in detail below, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Newly added claims are supported in Fig. 23 of Embodiment 7 and Fig. 26 of Embodiment 8. Since it is disclosed that a counter substrate in Embodiment 8 is obtained in the same manner as in Embodiment 7 as described in page 41, lines 4-7 of the specification, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of these embodiments is proper to support the newly added claims.

Paragraphs 1-3 of the Official Action object to the drawings for a number of informalities. In response to paragraph 3, a *Request for Drawing Change Approval* is submitted herewith adding the legend "prior art" as required by the Official Action. Reconsideration in view thereof and approval of these proposed corrections is requested.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 object to the title of the invention and in response, the title proposed by the Examiner is adopted herewith. Reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 6-9 of the Official Action object to the specification as not being written in full, clear, concise, and exact terms" as required by 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Official Action requests a substitute specification to correct a number of informalities. In response, Applicant's representative is preparing a substitute specification and will submit the same shortly as soon as it is complete. With the filing thereof, the specification is believed to be in proper form and reconsideration is requested.

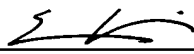
Paragraph 9 of the Official Action rejects claims 21-40 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent 4,960,719 to Tanaka, JP 62-283664 to Aoyama and U.S. Patent 4,650,543 to Kishita. As noted above, claims 21-40 have been canceled in favor of new claims 41-110. These claims are method claims based on device claims pending in related U.S. Application Serial Number 09/300,596, and the Examiner's attention is directed thereto.

New claims 41, 81, 91 and 101 recite a contact hole having a tapered and

rounded configuration. As noted in the *Supplemental Preliminary Amendment* filed in the '596 application, an organic leveling film should be relatively thick in order to provide sufficient leveling over the TFT. It is difficult, however, to provide an opening in such a leveling film that provides an adequate electrical contact between the pixel electrode and the source and/or drain regions. By providing a contact hole that is tapered and rounded, an improved electrical contact can be formed between the pixel electrode and the source and/or drain regions. This feature is not believed to be disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record and favorable consideration of new claims 41-110 is respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant believes that new claims 41-110 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in view of the above comments and amendments is requested. If the Examiner feels that any further discussions about this case would be beneficial, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110

C